

White House, Dems hurriedly reworking \$2 trillion Biden plan

By LISA MASCARO, DARLENE SUPERVILLE and ALAN FRAM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House and Democrats are hurriedly reworking key aspects of President Joe Biden's \$2 trillion domestic policy plan, trimming the social services and climate change programs and rethinking new taxes on corporations and the wealthy to pay for a scaled-back package. The changes come as Biden more forcefully appeals to the American public, including in a televised town hall Thursday evening, for what he says are the middle-class values at the heart of his proposal. As long-sought programs are adjusted or eliminated, Democratic leaders are

showing great deference to Biden's preferences to swiftly wrap up talks and reach a deal in the narrowly held Congress.

Even a new White House idea abandoning plans for reversing the Trump-era tax rates in favor of a approach that would involve taxing the investment incomes of billionaires to help finance the deal appears acceptable to top Democrats. The leadership is racing to finish negotiations, possibly by week's end.

"We have a goal. We have a timetable. We have milestones, and we've met them all," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., who predicted on Thursday, "It will pass soon."

Continued on next page



President Joe Biden speaks during an event marking the 10th anniversary of the dedication of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington, Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021.

Associated Press

OUR *Guests* CLAIM
WE SERVE *Authentic*
PERUVIAN CUISINE.

J.E. Irausquin Blvd 64 Eagle Beach, Aruba Info: + 297 5925699
reservations@asiesmiperuenaruba.com • Closed on Mondays



WE SEE SUNNY DAYS IN YOUR FUTURE
Meanwhile, stay safe. See you soon!
www.costalinda-aruba.com

Craving
a **Good**
Steak?



One pound of Natural grass-Fed Beef from the Argentinean Pampas,
Grilled to perfection by our Master Chefs over a real Charcoal Fire...
Juicy, Lean and full of Flavor.

IT's Time for an extraordinary steak!

Closed on Sundays

Open Monday through Saturday from 11:30am till 11pm. For reservations call 582-3677
Lunch and Early Bird specials available till 5pm. Happy Hour from 5-7pm



Fit2fly COVID-19 Testing Center

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED!

NAAT molecular (PCR): Result in 30 minutes!

Antigen Test: \$50

PCR Test also available

MedCare Clinic
URGENT CARE

Tel: (+297) 280-0630

info@medcare.aw / www.medcare.aw

Locations: The Cove Mall (8:00 AM - 6:00 PM) Medcare near Courtyard by Marriott (8:00 AM - 2:00 PM)

Continued from Front

Talks between the White House and Democratic leaders are trying to reduce what had been a \$3.5 trillion package to about \$2 trillion, in what would be an unprecedented federal effort to expand social services for millions and address the rising threat of climate change.

With stark Republican opposition and no Democratic votes to spare, Biden must keep all lawmakers in his party — centrists and progressives — aligned.

An abrupt change of course came late Wednesday when the White House floated new ways to pay for parts of the proposal by shelving a long-planned increase in corporate and top income tax rates but adding others, including a tax on the investment gains of the very richest Americans. Biden faces resistance from key holdouts, in particular Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., who has not been on board with her party's plan to undo President Donald Trump's tax breaks for big corporations or individuals earning more than \$400,000 a year.

The newly proposed tax provisions, though, are likely to sour progressives and even some moderate Democrats who have long campaigned on scrapping the Republican-backed 2017 tax cuts that many believe unduly reward the wealthy and cost the government untold sums in lost revenue at a time of gaping income inequality. Many are furious that perhaps a lone senator could stymie that goal.

Pelosi indicated she preferred undoing those tax breaks, but appeared open to the alternative. "We'll see," she said.

The corporate tax rate is 21%. Democrats want to raise it to 26.5% for companies earning more than



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., smiles during her weekly news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021.

Associated Press

\$5 million a year. The top individual income tax rate would go from 37% to 39.6% for those earning more than \$400,000, or \$450,000 for married couples.

Under the changes being floated the corporate rate would not change.

But the revisions would not be all positive for big companies and the wealthy. The White House is reviving the idea of a minimum corporate tax rate, similar to the 15% rate Biden had proposed this year. That's even for companies that say they had no taxable income — a frequent target of Biden, who complains they pay "zero" in taxes.

The new tax on the wealthiest individuals would be modeled on legislation from Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., chairman of the Sen-

ate Finance Committee. He has proposed taxing stock gains of people with more than \$1 billion in assets — fewer than 1,000 Americans. Sinema has not publicly stated her position. Her office did not respond to a request for comment. Another key Democrat, conservative Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia, has said he prefers a 25% corporate rate, but his resistance to the bill lies chiefly in other areas such as climate change and social services.

On a call with the administration and the White House, Wyden said he "stressed the importance of putting an end to America's two tax codes, and finally showing working people in this country that the wealthiest Americans are

going to pay taxes just like they do."

Overall, the emerging package, while slimmer than the original, would represent the most substantial overhaul of the federal balance sheets in at least a generation.

Biden and his party are trying to shore up middle-class households, tackle climate change and stem the trend toward rising income inequality.

In the mix are at least \$500 billion to battle climate change, \$350 billion for child care subsidies and free prekindergarten, a new federal program for at least four weeks of paid family leave, a one-year extension of the \$300 monthly child tax credit put in place during the COVID-19 crisis, and money for health

care provided through the Affordable Care Act and Medicare.

Likely to be eliminated or shaved back are plans for tuition-free community college, a path to permanent legal status for certain immigrants in the United States and a clean energy plan that was the centerpiece of Biden's strategy for fighting climate change.

Democrats are growing anxious they have spent much of the year on the package and have had difficulty explaining what's in it, made up of so many different pieces.

The president especially wants to advance it by the time he departs next week for a global climate summit in Scotland.

Manchin has made clear he opposes the president's initial energy plan, which was to have the government impose penalties on electric utilities that fail to meet clean energy benchmarks and provide financial rewards to those that do. Instead, Biden is focused on providing at least \$500 billion in tax credits, grants and loans for energy producers that reach emission-reduction goals.

In other areas, Pelosi appeared on board with Biden's plan to extend the \$300 monthly child tax credit for another year, rather than allow it to expire in December, but that's not as long as Democrats wanted.

What had been envisioned as a monthslong federal paid family leave program could be shrunk to as few as four weeks — an effort to at least start the program rather than eliminate it.

Biden also wants to ensure funding for health care programs and add a new one to provide dental, vision and hearing aid benefits to people on Medicare proposed by Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt. □

Human rights panel to hear Navajo uranium contamination case

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

— A group representing Navajo communities is presenting its case to an international human rights body, saying U.S. regulators violated the rights of tribal members when they cleared the way for uranium mining in western New Mexico.

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights based in Washington, D.C., decided earlier this year that the petition filed a decade ago by Eastern Navajo Diné Against Uranium Mining was admissible. With additional testimony and exhibits being filed Thursday, the commission is expected to hold a hearing in the spring.

Lawyers for the Navajo group said the commission's decision to hear the case marks the first time that the panel has found admissible a petition filed on behalf of an Indigenous community. It's the second time for the panel to consider an environmental justice case against the United States. The first was a petition by Mossville Environmental Action Now re-



In this July 16, 2009, file photo, a group of walkers moves south along highway 566 during a commemorative walk in Church Rock, N.M., to mark the 30th anniversary of a uranium tailings spill.

Associated Press

garding high cancer rates within impoverished communities in parts of Louisiana.

"Our filing today is crucial for the protection of our Diné communities, our people, our homeland, and our culture," Jonathan Perry, director of the Navajo group, said in a statement. "We will stand for our human rights and not allow our value as

Indigenous People to be diminished. The federal government must realize that we are not disposable and that water is life."

On the Navajo Nation, uranium mining has left a legacy of death, disease and environmental contamination. That includes the largest spill of radioactive material in the United States, when 94 million gal-

lons of tailings and wastewater spewed onto tribal lands in the Church Rock area in western New Mexico in 1979. It happened just three months after the partial meltdown of a nuclear reactor at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania, which got far more attention at the time.

Hundreds of abandoned uranium mines and radio-

active waste still have to be cleaned up across the Navajo Nation. Tribal President Jonathan Nez recently said residents of the nation's largest Indigenous reservation have been exposed to dangerous levels of radiation for years and have endured a wide range of illnesses as a result, with some dying prematurely.

The Navajo Nation recently signed a joint proclamation in support of the group's petition. Several individual Navajo chapters have passed their own resolutions, and the Oglala Sioux Tribe in South Dakota submitted a letter of support.

Since 2005, the Navajo Nation has had a ban on uranium mining on its land, which spans parts of New Mexico, Arizona and Utah. During a legislative session this week, Navajo lawmakers passed a measure that requests Congress host hearings regarding uranium mining, its long-term outcomes and reclamation efforts. The sponsor, Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay Jr., said it will be important for Congress to hear directly from the Navajo people. □

FBI: Remains found in Florida park ID'd as Brian Laundrie

By CURT ANDERSON

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)

— The FBI on Thursday identified human remains found in a Florida nature preserve as those of Brian Laundrie, a person of interest in the death of girlfriend Gabby Petito while the couple was on a cross-country road trip.

The remains, a backpack and notebook believed to belong to Laundrie were discovered Wednesday in a Florida wilderness park, according to the FBI. The area where they were found had been under water during earlier searches. The FBI's Denver office said in a news release that a comparison of dental records confirmed that the remains were Laundrie.

The discovery of the remains concluded a mas-

sive search involving federal, state and local law enforcement that began shortly after Laundrie disappeared Sept. 14, two weeks after the 23-year-old returned alone to his parents' home in North Port, Florida. Petito's family reported her missing Sept. 11, launching a search that garnered worldwide media attention and focused largely on the Carlton Reserve wilderness park near the Laundrie home. It is a densely wooded, swampy area that's home to alligators, coyotes, bobcats, snakes and numerous other creatures.

The intense focus on Petito's case has led to renewed calls for people to pay greater attention to cases involving missing Indigenous women and other people of color.

The body of Petito, 22, was found Sept. 19 on the edge of Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park, which the couple had visited. The coroner there concluded she died of strangulation and her body had been where it was found for three or four weeks.

The couple was stopped Aug. 12 by police in Moab, Utah, after they had a physical altercation, but no charges were filed.

Laundrie returned home alone Sept. 1 in the Ford van the couple took on their trip. He was reported missing after telling his parents that he was going for a hike in the Carlton Reserve, a nature preserve that was a key area in the search.

The activity Wednesday focused on the nearby Myakkahatchee Creek En-



Supporters of Gabby Petito hold up photos of Gabby after a news conference Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021, in North Port, Fla.

Associated Press

vironmental Park, where a Ford Mustang that Laundrie drove to the wilderness was found.

Laundrie was charged in a federal Wyoming indictment with unauthorized use of a debit card, which alleged Laundrie used a

Capital One Bank card and someone's personal identification number to make unauthorized withdrawals or charges worth more than \$1,000. It does not say to whom the card belonged or what type of charges were made. □

It will take more than rain to end drought in Western U.S.

By **ADAM BEAM**
Associated Press
SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— Californians rejoiced this week when big drops of water started falling from the sky for the first time in any measurable way since the spring, an annual soaking that heralds the start of the rainy season following some of the hottest and driest months on record.

But as the rain was beginning to fall on Tuesday night, Gov. Gavin Newsom did a curious thing: He issued a statewide drought emergency and gave regulators permission to enact mandatory statewide water restrictions if they choose.

Newsom's order might seem jarring, especially as forecasters predict up to 7 inches (18 centimeters) of rain could fall on parts of the Northern California mountains and Central Valley this week. But experts say it makes sense if you think of drought as something caused not by the weather, but by climate change.

For decades, California has relied on rain and snow in the winter to fill the state's major rivers and streams in the spring, which then feed



A pedestrian carries an umbrella while crossing a street at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco, Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021.

Associated Press

a massive system of lakes that store water for drinking, farming and energy production. But that annual runoff from the mountains is getting smaller, mostly because it's getting hotter and drier, not just because it's raining less.

In the spring, California's snowpack in the Sierra Nevada mountains was 60% of its historical average. But the amount of water that

made it to the reservoirs was similar to 2015, when the snowpack was just 5% of its historical average. Nearly all of the water state officials had expected to get this year either evaporated into the hotter air or was absorbed into the drier soil — a dynamic playing out across the arid Western U.S.

"You don't get into the type of drought that we're see-

ing in the American West right now just from ... missing a few storms," said Justin Mankin, a geography professor at Dartmouth College and co-lead of the Drought Task Force at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "A warm atmosphere evaporates more water from the land surface (and) reduces (the) amount of water available for other uses, like

people and hydropower and growing crops."

Storms are expected to linger in Northern California through the beginning of next week, including moderate to heavy rain with snow at higher elevations. The rain has helped contain some of the nation's largest wildfires this year, including a fire that threatened the Lake Tahoe resort region this summer. Officials said Wednesday night that fire is now 100% contained after storms covered the western side of the blaze with snow, while rain fell on the eastern side.

The state is expecting so much snow that Mammoth Mountain Ski Area near Yosemite National Park announced it would open for the season two weeks early on Oct. 29. But the amount of snow and rain amounts to just a drop in the bucket for California's changing climate.

California's "water year" runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30. The 2021 water year, which just ended, was the second driest on record. The one before that was the fifth driest on record. Some of the state's most important reservoirs are at record low levels. □

U.S. targets graft in Venezuela's flagship food box program



In this April 10, 2021 file photo, a man waits to unload bags of basic food staples, such as pasta, sugar, flour, and kitchen oil, provided residents through the CLAP government food assistance program in the Santa Rosalia neighborhood of Caracas, Venezuela.

Associated Press

By **JOSHUA GOODMAN**
Associated Press
MIAMI (AP) — Federal prosecutors have unveiled criminal charges against an

alleged corruption ring accused of paying millions of dollars in bribes to a top ally of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro to profit

from lucrative contracts to import food and medicine at a time of widespread hardship in the South American country.

The five individuals charged in an indictment unsealed Thursday include former Gov. Jose Gregorio Vielma Mora and associates of Alex Saab, a businessman extradited this month to face criminal charges in Miami in a separate corruption scheme.

Saab is not named in the latest indictment although his longtime business partner and fugitive co-defendant in the earlier case, fellow Colombian Alvaro Pulido, is among those charged.

Also indicted was Pulido's son and two individuals — Carlos Lizcano and Ana Guillermo — who al-

legedly helped establish a network of shell companies and bank accounts spanning offshore financial havens like Hong Kong, Antigua, Panama and the United Arab Emirates that between 2016 and 2018 received more than \$1 billion from Venezuelan state coffers for the purchase of food and medicine.

The Oct. 7 indictment centers around the so-called CLAP program set up by Maduro to provide basic food staples — rice, corn flour, cooking oil — to poor Venezuelans struggling to feed themselves amid hyperinflation and a crumbling currency.

In 2016, Gov. Vielma Mora allegedly hired a company controlled by Pulido to import to the western state of Tachira from Mexico 10 mil-

lion food boxes at \$34 per box. He allegedly did so knowing that the real cost of purchasing and sending the boxes to Venezuela was far less and demanded kickbacks from two unnamed co-conspirators to sign off on the deal.

One of the unnamed co-conspirators was Saab, according to a person familiar with the investigation on the condition of anonymity to discuss the probe. From there, Vielma Mora allegedly received \$17.2 million in bribes in exchange for the food contracts, prosecutors said.

There was no immediate response from Vielma-Mora, who was previously sanctioned by the Trump administration for his involvement in the same alleged corruption scheme. □

Official: U.S. at turning point in dealing with Myanmar crisis

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — The United States is at a turning point in deciding how to handle the crisis in military-ruled Myanmar, weighing further political and economic steps to pressure the government to change its behavior, a senior U.S. official said Thursday.

"The situation is getting worse inside Burma, both from a humanitarian point of view, from a security point of view, in terms of the economy and the lack of progress on the politics," U.S. State Department Counselor Derek Chollet told The Associated Press in an interview.

The U.S. has been one of the most vocal opponents of the military takeover that ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government in February. Suu Kyi was arrested and detained with top members of her National League for Democracy party, including President Win Myint.

A detailed accounting by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners blames security forces for the killings of almost 1,200 civilians and arresting over 9,043 others since Feb. 1. The government now faces a growing insurgency in many parts of the country. Chollet, who serves as an adviser to the secretary of state, gave an online interview while the U.S. delegation was in Indonesia after



In this photo released by U.S. Embassy in Indonesia, Derek Chollet, right, counselor of the U.S. Department of State, and Kin Moy, principal deputy assistant secretary for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, attend an exclusive interview with The Associated Press at the embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021.

Associated Press

visiting Thailand and Singapore ahead of an annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Brunei, where the situation in Myanmar is likely to dominate.

"We think that we have tools that can help stem the worst from happening in the near term. But as I said, I think we are at an inflection point in the process," Chollet said. There are political and economic levers that can be pulled by the U.S. and other governments to "pressure the regime to try to give them the kinds of incentives to change their behavior."

"Part of what we are trying to do as the United States is

to come in and not dictate the terms, but to offer our best perspectives and also hear from different partners here in the region," he said. In talks with the three key ASEAN members, the U.S. delegation was able to get "a sense of their ideas of the best way forward." The U.S., along with the United Kingdom and the European Union, has already placed sanctions on high-ranking Myanmar military members and state-owned enterprises including those dealing in lucrative timber and gems that are considered revenue streams for the military.

But activists have been quick to point out that the

sanctions have not included American and French oil and gas companies working in Myanmar, allowing the military to maintain its single-largest source of foreign currency revenue. It allows them to make purchases such as refined petroleum, weapons, packaged medicines and other imported goods.

"Not having sanctions is allowing these massive multinational companies that have huge stakeholder investment to be potentially complicit in ongoing atrocities and crimes in Myanmar," said Manny Maung, a Myanmar researcher for Human Rights Watch. "These business relation-

ships are basically going directly to criminal junta. The failure to take reasonable steps ... is really quite reckless and allowing businesses to be complicit." Chollet admitted there is "no question" that sanctioning of the oil business is a tool available to the U.S. But he also cautioned that Washington would need to "keep in mind the interests" of allies and partners in the region.

"That's why we're here is to think through what's the way forward, what could actually work to try to change the outlook of the junta," he said. "But then also how can we do so in a way that doesn't make our problems worse." He said the Biden administration has not made a final decision.

On Friday, ASEAN announced that it would not invite Myanmar's military leader Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing to the summit, a major repudiation for the country after it refused to allow an ASEAN envoy meet with Suu Kyi. The envoy, a Brunei diplomat, subsequently canceled his trip to Myanmar.

The decision was applauded by the U.N. special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, Tom Andrews. He said the military government was seeking money, weapons and legitimacy from the international community. □

La Palma: Hundreds more evacuate to flee volcano lava

MADRID (AP) — Hundreds of people were evacuated during the night on the Spanish island of La Palma as a river of molten rock crept deeper into a coastal town during a protracted volcanic eruption, authorities said Thursday.

Emergency services helped some 500 people leave their homes, the mayor of Tazacorte, Juan Miguel Rodríguez, told public broadcaster RTVE.

A total of around 7,500 people have been forced to flee since the Cumbre Vieja began erupting more than a month ago. Scien-

tists say the eruption could go on for three months. The tension of not knowing whether the slow-moving molten rock would entomb their homes, farmland and businesses is taking a toll on local people, Rodríguez said.

"There is already a certain degree of despondency and desperation, waiting for the volcano to subside," he said.

Though most of the island of 85,000 people off northwest Africa is unaffected by the eruption, part of the western side has seen the lava ruin livelihoods and

destroy homes.

The molten rock has covered more than 866 hectares (2,100 acres) and crushed or damaged around 2,185 buildings.

The volcano's constant roar and numerous earthquakes have also kept locals on edge. The National Geographical Institute counted 38 quakes since midnight, the strongest recording a magnitude of 4.3.

The economy of La Palma, part of Spain's Canary Islands, is based mainly from tourism and banana plantations. The Spanish



Lava flows from a volcano destroying houses at La Laguna neighbourhood on the Canary island of La Palma, Spain on Thursday Oct. 21, 2021.

Associated Press

government has pledged to help rebuild damaged infrastructure. □

U.S. and EU ambassadors: Enforce U.N. sanctions on North Korea

By **EDITH M. LEDERER**

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The United States and several European countries on Wednesday condemned North Korea's recent missile tests and said Pyongyang's technical advances demonstrate the urgent need to ramp up implementation of U.N. sanctions on its nuclear and missile programs and its economic activities.

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield urged North Korea to stop its "reckless provocations" that violate Security Council sanctions resolutions. She said it should start talks with the Biden administration without preconditions toward the goal of complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

She urged all countries to fully implement U.N. sanctions "so that we can prevent the DPRK from accessing the funds, the technology, the know-how it needs to further develop unlawful weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs."

Thomas-Greenfield reiterated to reporters before



This combination of four photos provided by the North Korean government shows a ballistic missile launched from a submarine Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2021, in North Korea.

Associated Press

an emergency closed meeting of the council on North Korea's latest missile tests that the United States has offered to meet officials from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea -- the country's official name -- "and we have made clear that we have no hostile intent toward the DPRK."

In a separate statement,

the three members of the European Union on the Security Council Ireland, France and Estonia said Monday's reported test of a submarine-launched ballistic missile "forms part of a pattern of provocations by the DPRK" in recent weeks, including launches of short-range ballistic missiles, long-range cruise missiles, "and what it has claimed to be a

hypersonic glider."

They said the new submarine missile launch "underlines the continued enhancement of the nuclear and ballistic program of the DPRK, which stated the ambition to ultimately acquire sea-based nuclear capabilities."

The EU council members urged North Korea to immediately end its "destabi-

lizing actions and take concrete steps to abandon its ballistic missiles" and other weapons of mass destruction including its nuclear program "in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner."

Ireland, France and Estonia also urged North Korea to respond positively to the repeated offers by the U.S. and South Korea for dialogue saying "there is no other way to achieve peace, security and stability on the Korean peninsula."

The 15-member Security Council heard a briefing on the latest missile tests from U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Mohamed Khaled Khiri, but did not issue a statement.

The council has imposed increasingly tough sanctions on North Korea severely restricting its imports and exports while demanding an end to its nuclear and ballistic missile activities. But North Korea has repeatedly flouted council resolutions and continues to launch increasingly sophisticated missiles, escalating tensions on the Korean peninsula and in the region.

Thousands rally in Sudan's capital to demand civilian rule



Sudanese demonstrators take to the streets of the capital Khartoum to demand the government's transition to civilian rule in Khartoum, Sudan, Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021.

Associated Press

NOHA ELHENNAWY

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Thousands of people rallied in the streets of Sudan's capital city Thursday, demanding a fully civilian government as the relationship between military generals and pro-

democracy groups deteriorated over the country's future.

As crowds swelled in separate marches in Khartoum, protest organizers said that security forces had attacked a group of demonstrators near the par-

liamentary headquarters. Government and police spokesmen did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Sudan has been ruled by an interim civilian-military government since 2019. The military ousted long-time autocrat Omar al-Bashir in April that year, following four months of mass protests against his rule. With al-Bashir toppled, the ruling generals agreed to share power with civilians representing the protest movement. The aftermath has been volatile. Thursday's rallies come after a rival group rallied in support of the military leaders.

The Sudanese Professionals' Association, which had called for the large rallies nationwide, said in a statement Thursday evening that security forces had attacked protesters near the

country's parliamentary headquarters. They did not elaborate on the nature of the attack. The statement told protesters to remain peaceful, but not to retreat from the streets until there was a handover of power. "Let's mark with our protests a new wave of popular uprising that will pave the way for a fully civilian and democratic rule," read an earlier statement by the group, which spearheaded the uprising that kicked off in December 2018 and culminated in al-Bashir's ouster. Thousands of men and women marched in the capital Thursday, waving the Sudanese flag and chanting: "We are free! We are revolutionaries! We will carry on with our journey!" Tensions between the civilians and generals in the transitional government have increased since Su-

dan's interim authorities said they foiled a coup attempt within the military last month. Officials blamed al-Bashir loyalists for the move. The announcement also aroused fears among civilians that the military may eventually hijack the country's transition to a civilian democratic rule.

Military leaders have also signaled a change in direction. Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, head of the ruling Sovereign Council, said that dissolving the government of Prime Minister Abdullah Hamdok could resolve the ongoing political crisis. Hamdok responded last week by addressing the public in a televised speech where he laid out a series of measures that he said would help speed the handover to a completely elected and civilian government. □

Haiti gang leader threatens to kill kidnapped missionaries

By EVENS SANON, MATÍAS DELACROIX and PIERRE-RICHARD LUXAMA

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— The leader of the 400 Mawozo gang that police say is holding 17 members of a kidnapped missionary group is seen in a video released Thursday saying he will kill them if he doesn't get what he's demanding. The video posted on social media shows Wilson Joseph dressed in a blue suit, carrying a blue hat and wearing a large cross around his neck.

"I swear by thunder that if I don't get what I'm asking for, I will put a bullet in the heads of these Americans," he said in the video.

He also threatened Prime Minister Ariel Henry and the chief of Haiti's National Police, Léon Charles, as he spoke in front of the open coffins that apparently held several members of his gang who were recently killed.

"You guys make me cry. I cry water. But I'm going to make you guys cry blood," he said.

Earlier this week, authorities said that the gang was demanding \$1 million per person, although it wasn't immediately clear that included the five children in the group, among them an 8-month-old. Sixteen Americans and one Canadian were abducted, along with their Haitian driver.

The missionaries are with Ohio-based Christian Aid Ministries, which held a news conference before someone posted the video



People protest carrying a banner with a message that reads in Creole: "No to kidnappings, no to violence against women! Long live Christian Aid Ministries," demanding the release of kidnapped missionaries, in Titanyen, north of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2021.

Associated Press

of the gang leader.

Weston Showalter, spokesman for the religious group, said that the families of those who'd been kidnapped are from Amish, Mennonite and other conservative Anabaptist communities in Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Oregon and Ontario, Canada. He read a letter from the families, who weren't identified by name, in which they said, "God has given our loved ones the unique opportunity to live out our Lord's command to love your enemies."

The group invited people to join them in prayer for the kidnappers as well as those kidnapped and expressed gratitude for help from "people that are

knowledgeable and experienced in dealing with" such situations.

"Pray for these families," Showalter said. "They are in a difficult spot."

The same day that the missionaries were kidnapped, a gang also abducted a Haiti university professor, according to a statement that Haiti's ombudsman-like Office of Citizen Protection issued on Tuesday. It also noted that a Haitian pastor abducted earlier this month has not been released despite a ransom being paid. "The criminals ... operate with complete impunity, attacking all members of society," the organization said.

Meanwhile, hundreds of demonstrators blocked roads and burned tires in

Haiti's capital to decry a severe fuel shortage and a spike in insecurity and to demand that the prime minister step down.

The scattered protest took place across the Delmas neighborhood of Port-au-Prince.

In addition to kidnappings, the gangs also are blamed

for blocking gas distribution terminals and hijacking supply trucks, which officials say has led to a shortage of fuel. Many gas stations now remain closed for days at a time, and the lack of fuel is so dire that the CEO of Digicel Haiti announced on Tuesday that 150 of its 1,500 branches countrywide are out of diesel.

"Nothing works!" complained Davidson Meuce, who joined Thursday's protest. "We are suffering a lot." Some protestors held up signs including one that read, "Down with the high cost of living."

Demonstrators clashed with police in some areas, with officers firing tear gas that mixed with the heavy black smoke rising from burning tires that served as barricades.

Alexandre Simon, a 34-year-old English and French teacher, said he and others are protesting because Haitians are facing such dire situations.

"There are a lot of people who cannot eat," he said.

"There is no work ... There are a lot of things we don't have." □

Southern African states send delegation to troubled Eswatini

By MOGOMOTSI MAGOME

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Southern African nations have sent envoys to the tiny kingdom of Eswatini, formerly known as Swaziland, to engage with King Mswati III about the political and civil unrest that has engulfed the country in recent weeks.

The 16-nation Southern African Development Community sent top officials from Eswatini's neighbor South Africa and the

nearby countries of Botswana and Namibia.

Eswatini has been embroiled in pro-democracy protests by demonstrators demanding sweeping reforms including the removal of King Mswati, who has ruled the mountainous country since 1986 as an absolute monarch where all political parties are banned.

Mswati is accused by activists of ordering the country's security forces to violently suppress the demonstrations. □

Pinchos Grill & Bar

Open: Daily
From: 5:00pm to 10:00pm
Tel.: 583-2666
Website: www.pinchosaruba.com

Travellers' Choice 2020

THE WEST DECK
ISLAND GRILL • BEACH BAR

Open: Daily for Lunch and Dinner
From: 10:30 am to 10:00 pm
Tel.: 587-2667
Website: www.thewestdeck.com

Travellers' Choice 2020

LOCAL



Governor Boekhoudt pays working visit to Imeldahof



ORANJESTAD - Stichting Kinderhuis Imeldahof received a visit from the Governor of Aruba, His Excellency Alfonso Boekhoudt, on Wednesday, October 20, 2021.

Upon arrival, Governor Boekhoudt was received by Natalia Hernandez (Director) and Denise Campbell (Pedagogisch Coördinator).

The Imeldahof Children's Home Foundation aims to provide a temporary home

and support to children who, for various reasons, cannot continue to live in their own homes. In most cases they stay there until a placement with their own family, with relatives or in a foster home can be realized.

The Governor visited all four houses of Stichting Kinderhuis Imeldahof. At Cas Marijke, Governor Boekhoudt was shown around by Liliana Kwidama (head teacher). This house is a 24-hour residence. Then at

Cas Margriet, the day care location, a presentation was shown on what a day in the life of a pupil looks like.

Following this, at Cas Irene, the Governor conducted an interview with two pupils. Finally, Wendy Croes (headmistress), who has been with the Foundation for 41 years, told about Imeldahof from the past and present. This talk took place at Cas Beatrix, the Foundation's crisis 24-hour shelter. □

Opening Immerse 2021



ORANJESTAD - On October 18, 2021, Immerse Aruba opening event 2021 kicked off at the Renaissance Festival Plaza.

The evening kick starting the series of innovative workshops organized to create and share innovation throughout Innovation month. Prime minister Evelyn Wever-Croes, gave a welcoming speech to start off the evening, followed by Minister Geoffrey Wever, Minister of Economics, Communication and Sustainable Development, who gave an informative speech about the upcoming plans entrepreneurship in Aruba. Immerse Aruba innovation week brings together the private sector, NGOs, public institutions, students, entrepreneurs, and investors on the island in a joint mission to accelerate innovative thinking. "The Government's vision for innovation is based on the need for change and diversification and their commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. These goals require a complete transformation, and business as usual is not enough. By incorporating innovation into the national strategy for sustainable development, provides the opportunity to catch the wave and achieve these goals." the Prime Minister said during her speech. The Prime Minister emphasized that the changes should focus not only on knowledge but also on creativity. Aruba is known for its creative and cultural innovation. It is inspired by the challenges encountered as a community. "Our creativity and imagination have no limits and put to the test during the pandemic. As Arubans, we bonded by our creativity, curiosity, and being open-hearted. We have all that it takes to seize unique opportunities to create new products and services needed in Aruba and the world", the Prime Minister expressed. In the 21st century, the small size of Aruba is no longer a threat but rather an advantage. The start of the "IMMERSE Innovation Month" is the best way to start. The Government of Aruba wants to encourage the youth, those experienced and all citizens without exclusion, to join this movement full of opportunities to challenge the status quo. "The hope is to create an environment where it is ok to think differently, to try doing new things or doing things differently to reach homegrown solutions. If there is something that I mentioned a few times, is that the things we do not lack are ideas and creativity.

It takes one single idea to transcend the limits of our shores. The Prime Minister urged everyone to "keep the conversation going" and thanked those present for celebrating innovation. □

HARBOUR HOUSE
Aruba

MOVE IN READY!!

THE NEW DOWNTOWN LIVING
With the Most Spectacular View
Don't Miss Out 85% Already Sold!!
Visit us and check it out for yourself

(+297) 594 6395

Weststraat 2 | O'Stad, Aruba | sales@harbourhousearuba.com
WWW.HARBOURHOUSEARUBA.COM

WIN \$10 UP TO \$1,000 IN FREE SLOT PLAY THE DAY YOU JOIN THE CLUB!

50/30
Friday!We're giving away
\$50 Free Slot Play
to lucky slot and table
game players every
30 minutes from
7pm to Midnight!**THE SHOPS
AT ALHAMBRA CASINO**Offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets,
Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.Dunkin Donuts | Baskin Robbins | Fusion Piano & Wine Bar
Hungry Piranha | Twist of Flavors | Juan Valdez Café
The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood | SubwayAlhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 2am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.

National Day against human trafficking

ORANJESTAD – On October 18, 2021, a walk was held to kick off the awareness campaign against human trafficking called “Open your eyes”. This is in connection with the national day against human trafficking.

The walk started near Djispie's Place and finished at the Plaza Daniel Leo. At the end of their speech, the Prime Minister of Aruba, Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes, and Minister of Justice Mr. Rocco Tjon remarked that human trafficking and smuggling have serious consequences.

In Aruba, every year on October 18, the Government commemorates National Day against Human Trafficking to create awareness about human trafficking. It is part of the “Open your eyes” campaign launched in May 2021. Aruba is going through social, economic, financial, and migratory challenges. One of the sad and dangerous aspects of the migrant crisis is the phenomena of human trafficking and human smuggling. Human trafficking is a modern form of slavery and is a crime against human rights. It is the responsibility of the community to stop this. “As a responsible Government, we can not just stand on the sidelines and watch this unfold. That is why the “Open your eyes” campaign is so important. Human trafficking is abuse, and we have to stop this, no matter if it involves migrants or locals. We want



to develop Aruba for every single person and cannot exclude anyone. We want Aruba to progress,” the Prime Minister said.

On Monday, the first of three awareness events were held in Oranjestad. The following events will be held in San Nicolas and Santa Cruz. These two events will include an intriguing exhibition and flyers will be distributed containing information about red flags of possible cases of human trafficking. Posters will be posted at key locations to reinforce the awareness campaign against human trafficking and human smuggling. The Prime Minister urges the community to be on alert

and to find out what the red flags are. Take immediate action when witnessing suspicious activities. Call the Coordination Center for Human Trafficking and Smuggling (CMMA). The CMMA can be reached by email: info@cmmaruba.com or on Facebook or by calling 297-597-5223 (during office hours). The CMMA hotline is +297-592-3231 (hotline 24/7).

In closing, the Prime Minister said: “Open your eyes because human trafficking and smuggling happens closer to home than you might think. Aruba counts on everybody to help fight against this felony. Aruba needs all of us”! □

Honoring of Goodwill Ambassadors at Caribbean Palm Village

NOORD — Recently, Mr. Jonathan Boekhoudt had the great pleasure to honor a Loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba as Goodwill Ambassadors at their home away from home.

The honorees were:

Carmen Chiclana from New York and **Anthony Ferruccio** from Florida.

The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20-35 and more consecutive years.

Boekhoudt together with the members of Caribbean Palm Village, thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years.

Top reason for returning provided by the honorees were:

The people, beautiful beaches, delicious food and safety feeling that the island gives. □



Marine Mingle



SAVANETA — Defense on Aruba is the responsibility of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Netherlands Military forces that protect Aruba include the Royal Netherlands Navy, the Netherlands Marine Corps and the Netherlands Coastguard. There is also a small indigenous "Arubaanse Militie" (ARUMIL) of about platoon strength. All forces are stationed at Marines Barracks Savaneta. Here are some activities that have been happening lately with the marines.

ARUMIL soldiers took the oath

Last Friday was a happy moment for six soldiers from the ARUMIL and one naval man from the fleet. They took the oath or affirmation in the presence of their family. The ceremony took place at Marine Barracks Savaneta in Aruba, and His Excellency Mr Boekhoudt, the Governor of Aruba, also attended the ceremony.

Lieutenant Colonel of the Marines

Art van Beekhuizen, commander of Marine Barracks Savaneta: "Every soldier takes the oath or promise once, it is a great milestone in their career at Defense. We therefore consider it appropriately." To all sworn in: Masha Pabien and welcome to your next section. The swearing in marks the end of the training phase.

Engineers of the Royal Netherlands Army practice in the Caribbean

During exercise Caribbean Engineer, soldiers from Phoenix OOCL, part of the Royal Netherlands Army in the Caribbean, practice their (construction) skills. The exercise has now been underway for a week and a half and will last four weeks in total. The unit, 101 Engineer Battalion, consists of engineers with various expertise. They are military and also specialists in the field of construction. In the coming period, they will carry out a program consisting of various military training courses on the one hand, and on the other hand they will work on multiple construction tasks for various parties, including Defense itself. Engineers from, among others, 102 Construction Company and 105 Engineer Company Hydraulic Engineering train their skills at various locations on Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten, but also help realize important social projects. For example, the construction experts in Curaçao, commissioned by Carmabi, are working on a footbridge at a small water crossing. At Arikok National Park in Aruba, the military is supporting, among other things, a Kite Power sustainability project, where a test will take place to generate



energy using a large kite. Various infrastructural facilities are required for this. The engineer unit will also get to work for Defense itself. For example, a practice house is being built at Marine Barracks Savaneta for training 'performing in urban areas'. The unit consists of more than 150 soldiers who are housed across the islands. For the construction work, 40 (military) construction vehicles were shipped by sea to Curaçao and Aruba.

Women Social Training Trajectory

The current training of the Social Training Trajectory in Aruba has

been underway for a month and a half. The 12 women who are still in training were in the field last week, because: they were at bivouac. That means spending the night in a bow tent and working all day long with all kinds of military skills, ranging from 'map and compass' and Self Help Comrades Help (military first aid). Nice work ladies!

The Social Training Trajectory is a training course for Aruban youth, which consists of a military phase and an internship in civil society. After completing the military phase of the training, they receive a beret and certificate. □

RWZI needs an urgent solution

ORANJESTAD - Since 2018, the issue of the RWZI (Sewage Treatment Plant) has been escalated to an urgent level.

The community needs to be aware that this issue requires substantial financial input and community support to maintain the RWZI operational. The current condition of the RWZI in Bubali is endangering our only economic pillar, our tourism. "We need to stand still and realize that this problem is affecting the entire community of Aruba. It is time to get serious about this problem

before it is too late," Minister Ursell Arends said. During a press conference, Mr. Frank Benita, Head of Water Boards Management at the DOW, also talked about the seriousness of this subject. Aruba has three (3) treatment plants for sewage, well water, and rainwater. The facility at Bubali is the oldest but also treats the most water volume. This facility receives 8000 cubic meters of water daily, even though the facility was built to process 45000 cubic meters. According to Mr. Benita the RWZI in Parkietenbos has also sur-

passed its capacity. "The current condition of the plants forms a potential danger for our health and environment," Minister Arends said. "We upgraded from 1 facility to 3 facilities but never made sure to have the necessary resources to keep these plants operational". During the Covid shutdown, we realized that 65% of the wastewater received at the Bubali facility was produced by tourism. During the shutdown, the amount of water received at Bubali was 3000 cubic meters less, which also resulted in the water being



sent to the Bubali Plas being much clearer. Since the restart of tourism after the shutdown, the condition at the Bubali Plas has been deteriorating again. The bacteria do not have enough time to break down the waste in the water. The reason for the presentation was to illustrate the issue of the RWZI. According to the Minister, the current horizontal

work structure within the Government makes inter-ministerial collaboration more efficient. A business plan will be completed soon and will use the technical expertise of the DOW as guidance to make a financial plan for this project. It will give a sustainable and durable solution. "From wastewater to sustainable resource," the Minister remarked. □

Workers fed up with nights, weekends seek flexible schedules

NEW YORK (AP) — After struggling to hire workers for its outlet store in Dallas, Balsam Hill finally opened on Sept. 1. But the very next day, the online purveyor of high-end artificial holiday trees was forced to close after four of its five workers quit.

The main gripe for three of them? Working on weekends. So they found jobs elsewhere with better hours.

Balsam Hill reopened weeks later with nine workers, hiking the hourly pay by \$3 to \$18 per hour. But more importantly, it changed its approach: Instead of only focusing on the needs of the business, it's now closely working with each employee to tailor their schedules based on when they want to work.

"We're working against people who have the choice of wherever they want to work," said Kendra Gould, senior retail strategist at Balsam Hill. "Now, it's more about what do you need as an employee and how can we make you happy?"

Companies are confronting demands by hourly workers on terms that often used to be non-negotiable: scheduling. Taking a page from their white-collar peers who are restructuring their workdays to accommodate their lifestyles, hourly workers are similarly seeking flexibility in how — and when — they do their jobs. That means pushing back on weekend, late night or holiday shifts.

Job openings are plentiful, so workers can afford to be picky. There were 10.4 million job openings at the end of August and 11.1 million openings the month before, the highest on record since at least December 2000, when the government started recording that figure. At the same time, the Labor Department said that the number of people quitting their jobs jumped to 4.3 million in August from 4 million in July.

Among the new workers Balsam Hill hired was Rickey Haynes, 62, a pastor for a local Baptist church.



Balsam Hill Outlet sales associate Rickey Haynes walks through the store during on-the-job training with retail manager Kelly Bratt in Allen, Texas, Monday, Sept. 20, 2021.

Associated Press

He retired in July but still preaches in the community. He said he was looking for part-time work in retail, but didn't want to work Sundays because of his preaching. Balsam Hill was willing to work around his schedule.

"They were accommodating," he said. "If I could, I could work with them until I am done."

A recent study from ManpowerGroup revealed that nearly 40% of job candidates worldwide said schedule flexibility is one of their top three factors in career decisions.

The shifting mindset is showing up in data from job site platforms.

SnagAJob.com, an online marketplace for hourly workers, says the word "flexibility" now accounts for roughly 11% of the more than 7 million job postings on its site compared with 8% earlier in the year. But overnight shifts at restaurants have also increased significantly since January. Instawork, a staffing marketplace that connects local businesses with skilled hourly workers, says the rate at which employers were able to fill weekend shifts dropped significantly from January through August compared with weekday shifts.

Such challenges are happening as companies struggle to hire holiday workers.

Target Corp. said this month it will pay \$2 an hour more to employees who pick up shifts during peak days of the holiday season, including Saturday and Sunday, as well as on Christmas Eve or on the day after Christmas. That's on top of companies already dangling bonuses and loosening requirements for drug testing and educational minimums that have kept some people out of the workforce.

Sumir Meghani, co-founder and CEO and founder of Instawork, says such perks don't solve the root of the problem.

"It's about flexibility," said Meghani, noting that available shifts on Instawork have surged eightfold from right before the pandemic to August 2021. "It's about workers saying 'I don't want to work weekends' or 'I can't work Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesdays because I don't have child care or schools haven't reopened' or 'I am worried about COVID.'"

Meghani says hourly workers are asking how can they get the same work-life balance as their peers who can work remotely.

"The challenge is, if you are a bartender you have to work until 2 a.m.," he says. Employers of such jobs are limited in what they can do given the nature of how they operate, especially with customers having

grown accustomed to getting what they want when they want it.

Radial, which fills online orders for retailers like Dick's Sporting Goods and PetSmart, says it's working to align its schedules with candidate expectations at each location. Increasingly, it's accommodating popular shifts such as Monday through Friday only, or Saturday and Sunday only. But Sabrina Wnorowski, Radial's vice president of human resources, says it's difficult to address everyone's needs given the unpredictable nature of spending during the holidays.

On the flipside, the working poor have long struggled with erratic work schedules, particularly in the food service and retail sectors, says Daniel Schneider, professor of public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government whose Shift Project focuses on inequality of low-income workers.

"The problem isn't new, and we've shown that the consequences for workers and their families are dire," said Schneider, noting day-to-day instability of work schedules is inextricably linked to job instability. That leads to high job turnover for workers, which in turn imposes costs on individuals and on firms.

During the pandemic, hourly workers were hit especially hard when non-

essential businesses like department stores and restaurants were forced to close for a few months during the spring of 2020. Those who remained employed at essential businesses like grocery stores found themselves overworked under the crush of shoppers' purchases for basic items.

When demand for dining and shopping rebounded as more people got vaccinated this past spring, businesses couldn't hire workers fast enough. And many of the hourly employees found new jobs as they redefined their priorities. That contributed to a labor shortage, forcing employers to look for ways to make their jobs seem more attractive while also cutting back on hours of operation.

The National Restaurant Association says that 68% of the 4,000 operators it polled in a September survey say their restaurants reduced hours of operation on days it was open for business from June through August. The survey also found that 45% of the operators polled said they closed their restaurant on the days that it would normally be open during that time frame.

Donald Minerva is the owner of a restaurant called Scottadito Osteria Toscana in Brooklyn, New York. He says that right before the pandemic he had 16 workers who worked various shifts at his restaurant, which was open six days a week. Now, Minerva has 14 workers but a good chunk of them don't want to work double-shifts and so the restaurant is now open just five days a week with limited hours.

Minerva says 70% of his staff are from the pre-pandemic days and want to work 40 hours a week. But the new workers want more flexibility.

For Minerva, that means he has to spend more time working on their schedules and less time on priorities like coming up with new strategies to bring in customers.

"It's a juggle to find them, and a juggle to keep them," he said. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 39 S&L

1 New offering

Orleans 40 Add up

cuisine 41 Naps

6 Useful 43 Witch

skill 44 Singer

11 Blue hue Cara

12 Play part 45 Fast

13 Pat's runners

TV 46 Copen-

colleague hagen

14 Annual natives

visitor

15 Yale

rooter

16 Dorm

sharers

18 Old

roadster

19 Georgia,

once:

Abbr.

20 Lode

material

21 DEA

agent

23 Constel-

lation

makeup

25 Plopped

down

27 Attack

command

28 Wild

30 Coin,

essentially

33 Boxer

Norton

34 Disfigure

36 Kicker's

aid

37 Soybean

snack

S	W	A	P		T	R	A	C	E
P	A	P	A		G	O	U	G	E
O	V	E	R		L	A	P	E	L
T	E	S	T	C	A	S	E		
			N	E	S	T	E	G	G
S	H	E	E	N	S		R	A	W
H	E	A	R	T		K	O	A	L
A	R	T			W	A	R	D	E
W	E	S	T	W	I	N	D		
			R	E	S	T	E	A	S
A	S	L	E	E	P		A	R	L
S	P	E	N	D	S		L	I	A
P	A	D	D	Y		S	A	T	E

Yesterday's answer

5 Draws

close

to

26 Sonora

snacks

28 Felt

6 Classifies

topper

7 Racket

29 Hurried

8 Golden

flight

31 Placid

32 Stops

9 Comes in

33 Yawl's kin

35 Made over

17 CIA

38 Horse

feature

10 Make fun

42 — pro

22 Lot sight

nobis

24 Help out

DOWN

1 Bat

abode

2 Flowery

shrub

3 New

member of

Congress,

perhaps

4 Ornate

vase

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-22

CRYPTOQUOTE

K D D A U M I , K G N S O G K T L

Y A Y S L G I A U A M O D T E S I , L S S H

G A G K W S K H E T N S K L H

O S N S T E S P S D V U O A Y A G P S O

V S A V D S , — K D S B T I N K O S D

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WEAR GRATITUDE LIKE A CLOAK, AND IT WILL FEED EVERY CORNER OF YOUR LIFE. — RUMI



A Wing drone hovers before lowering a package to the ground by tether in Christiansburg Va., in this Friday, Oct. 18, 2019, file photo.

Associated Press

Walgreens begins testing drone delivery in Texas

By MATT O'BRIEN
AP Technology Writer

Walgreens will begin flying packages by drone to residents in a pair of Texas cities in partnership with Google's drone-making affiliate, Wing.

The companies said they will begin testing the service next week in the city of Frisco and neighboring Little Elm, two fast-growing communities north of Dallas where road traffic is "probably the biggest complaint we get," said Frisco Mayor Jeff Cheney.

"Every delivery made by drone is taking a delivery vehicle off our roads," Cheney said.

It will be Wing's first commercial expansion in the U.S. after years testing the concept in a Virginia town and parts of Australia and Finland. The drone company is a subsidiary of Google's corporate parent, Alphabet.

"We've gradually moved into denser and denser environments," said Jonathan Bass, Wing's head of marketing and communications.

Rivals including Amazon, Walmart and UPS have all sought to get drone delivery fleets off the ground but the projects face numerous technical and regulatory challenges.

There's also not much evidence that American consumers have been clamoring for airlifted packages, and many have expressed privacy, safety or nuisance concerns when asked to imagine the noisy machines over their homes.

Walgreens says about 100 store items will be available for air delivery when the service rolls out in Texas in the coming months, including over-the-counter medication, snacks and cosmetics. Store employees will be tasked with taking online orders and then loading the purchased items onto one of a small number of Wing's 10-pound drones.

The drones are able to navigate autonomously though a human pilot can also control them remotely and are powered by two forward propellers on their wings and 12 smaller vertical propellers. A tether releases to drop the package onto a front lawn.

Wing expects most customers to be in the single-family homes that dominate the area, though it has delivered to apartment buildings in Europe.

"It's got very advanced planning and routing capabilities so for each flight, the system does millions of simulations to get the best route," Bass said. "It can

navigate to a very specific location."

The first phase of the initiative will operate out of the parking lot of a single Walgreens store in a shopping center near the border of Little Elm and Frisco. Wing says the drones will be able to serve thousands of people within a 4-mile radius of the store.

Wing's biggest delivery service so far has been in the Australian city of Logan, where the company says it made about 50,000 drone deliveries in the first eight months of this year. A smaller pilot with Walgreens started in 2019 in sparsely populated neighborhoods of Christiansburg, Virginia. Frisco, which grew from about 6,000 people in 1990 to about 200,000 last year, has pitched itself as a testing ground for new modes of transport such as self-driving cars and Uber's flying taxis. Cheney said he doesn't expect many complaints about drone noise or safety.

Federal officials started rolling out new rules in mid-April to allow operators to fly small drones over people and at night, potentially giving a boost to commercial use of the machines. Wing says its Texas service will be limited to daytime hours for now. □

Reports: Health problems tied to global warming on the rise

By SETH BORENSTEIN

Health problems tied to climate change are all getting worse, according to two reports published Wednesday.

The annual reports commissioned by the medical journal Lancet tracked 44 global health indicators connected to climate change, including heat deaths, infectious diseases and hunger. All of them are getting grimmer, said Lancet Countdown project research director Marina Romanello, a biochemist.

"Rising temperatures are having consequences," said University of Washington environmental health professor Kristie Ebi, a report co-author.

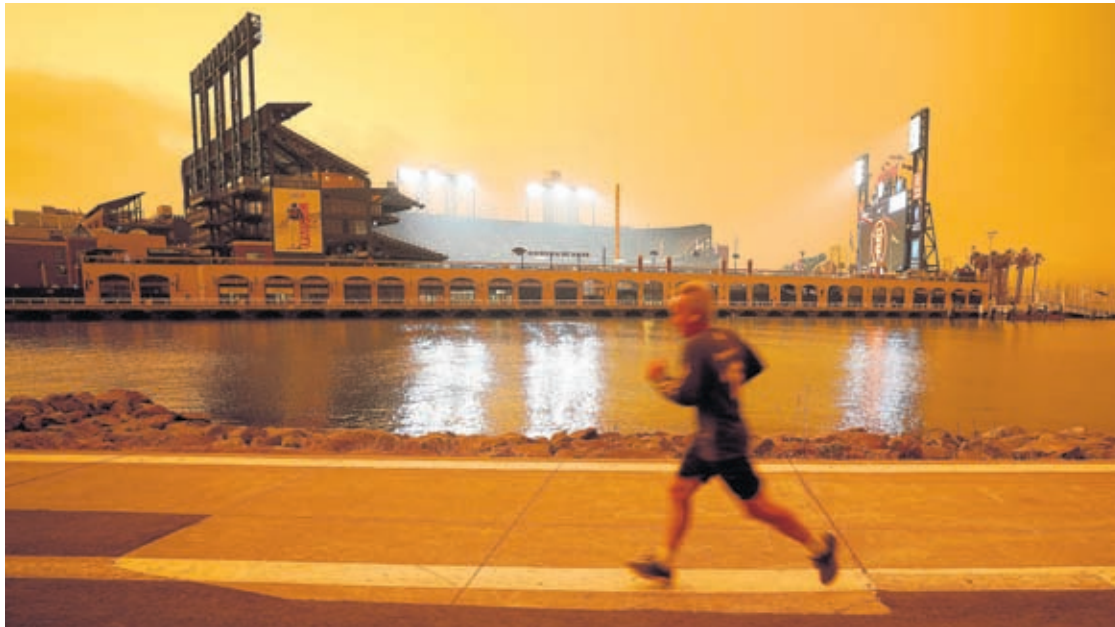
This year's reports one global, one just aimed at the United States called "code red for a healthy future," highlight dangerous trends:

Vulnerable populations older people and very young were subject to more time with dangerous heat last year. For people over 65, the researchers calculated there were 3 billion more "person-day" exposures to extreme heat than the average from 1986 to 2005.

More people were in places where climate-sensitive diseases can flourish. Coastline areas warm enough for the nasty Vibrio bacteria increased in the Baltics, the U.S. Northeast and the Pacific Northwest in the past decade. In some poorer nations, the season for malaria-spreading mosquitoes has expanded since the 1950s.

"Code Red is not even a hot enough color for this report," said Stanford University tropical medicine professor Dr. Michele Barry, who wasn't part of the study team. Compared to the last Lancet report, "this one is the sobering realization that we're going completely in the wrong direction."

In the U.S., heat, fire and drought caused the biggest problems. An unprecedented Pacific Northwest



In this Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2020 file photo, a jogger runs along McCovey Cove outside Oracle Park in San Francisco, under darkened skies from wildfire smoke.

Associated Press

and Canadian heat wave hit this summer, which a previous study showed couldn't have happened without human-caused climate change.

Study co-author Dr. Jeremy Hess, a professor of environmental health and emergency medicine at the University of Washington, said he witnessed the impacts of climate change while working at Seattle emergency rooms during the heat.

"I saw paramedics who had burns on their knees from kneeling down to care for patients with heat stroke," he said. "And I saw far too many patients die" from the heat.

Another ER doctor in Boston

said science is now showing what she has seen for years, citing asthma from worsening allergies as one example.

"Climate change is first and foremost a health crisis unfolding across the U.S.," said Dr. Renee Salas, also a co-author of the report.

George Washington University School of Public Health Dean Dr. Lynn Goldman, who was not part of the project, said health problems from climate change "are continuing to worsen far more rapidly than would have been projected only a few years ago."

The report said 65 of the 84 countries included subsidize the burning of fossil fuels, which cause climate

change. Doing that "feels like caring for the desperately ill patient while somebody is handing them lit cigarettes and junk food," said Dr. Richard Jackson, a UCLA public health professor who wasn't part of the study. □



Editor
 Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
 Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
 Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
 Acc. #23951903
 RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Assistant Director
 Xiomara Arends

Editors
 Liza Koolman (Management assistant)
 Richard Brooks

Sales
 Linda Reijnders
 Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
 classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection
 accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website
 Juan Luis Pinto
 Pilar Flores

Columnists
 Anthony Croes

Weststraat 22
 T: 582-7800
 E: news@arubatoday.com
 W: www.arubatoday.com
 @arubatoday



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
 Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
 Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

St. Cruz Tel. 585 8028

San Nicolas:

Aloe Tel. 584 4606

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
 Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
 Urgent Care 586 0448
 Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
 +297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
 Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
 Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
 Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
 Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
 Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
 Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like
us on
Facebook

facebook.com/arubatoday/

Gwyneth Paltrow tackles bedroom taboos in Netflix series

By **BROOKE LEFFERTS**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Gwyneth Paltrow admits she has insecurities about her physical appearance in an episode of her new Netflix series "Sex, Love & goop," but she's working on that. The Oscar-winner and entrepreneur behind the goop beauty and wellness brand opens up in the six-episode series, aimed at improving the relationships and sex lives of six courageous couples. When some women on the show cited body image as an obstacle to sex, Paltrow shared her experience. She explained that after growing up in the public eye since she was 22, she was always trying to fit some ideal.

"I don't think I've ever met a woman that feels completely great about her body, and that's a real shame," Paltrow said in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

"That means that we're holding ourselves to some other standard that's been prescribed to us and it's very external as opposed to internal. At this point in my life, I'm definitely not a perfect person, but I'm always on a journey toward self-improvement. I really like myself. I know my faults. I don't think I have blind spots anymore, and I'm trying to sort of cultivate that same feeling about my body."

Paltrow, 49, also points out that she wanted to "show up for vulnerability" since she was asking the couples



This image released by Netflix shows Michaela Boehm, left, and Gwyneth Paltrow in a scene from the Netflix series "Sex, Love, and Goop," premiering Thursday.

Associated Press

to do the same. The six pairs include people of varying ages, races, and sexual orientations working with experts to learn new ways to see each other and increase intimacy, while using methods and tools to enhance their relationships through more pleasurable sex.

One of goop's missions is to encourage curiosity and "eliminate the shame around female sexuality" through its content and products. Paltrow says there's no better way to achieve that than by talking about sex and giving people permission to ask for what they want in the bedroom.

"Female pleasure is still considered a taboo and I think that if you look back throughout history and you understand how controlling women's pleasure or lack thereof or, you know...

separating pleasure from morality, it's a way to make women not feel fully themselves," she said.

The show's experts — a Sexual Bodyworker, a Tantra and Sacred Intimacy coach, and an Erotic Wellness coach — help couples through deep discussions and physical exercises. Many couples volunteered to be on the show in hopes of working through disagreements or attitudes toward sex, which ranged from differing levels of desire to complaints of losing the physical spark in a relationship.

Michaela Boehm, an intimacy expert on the series who has worked with Paltrow personally, says she is excited about "Sex, Love & goop" because it will make her advice more accessible to people who might otherwise be reluctant about sex therapy.

"You are doing it in the privacy of your bedroom or your living room, where you are watching. There's no stigma attached, and you are not having to expose yourself. You get to inch into the water, so to speak, one little toe at a time," Boehm said.

"People, because we don't talk about these things, they think they are broken or the only one experiencing this," Boehm said. "So seeing it and being presented with it as something that happens, that in itself takes so much pressure off and that opens a door and creates a belief that then can lead to a deeper relationship."

Both Boehm and Paltrow said they were humbled by the courage the couples showed. "It requires a certain amount of bravery to submit yourself for something like that," Paltrow

said. "A lot of those couples really have almost that like, movie star thing that you just care and you want to watch them."

The show — which starts streaming Thursday — has an onscreen note at the beginning saying it's "designed to entertain and inform, not provide medical advice," a disclaimer in anticipation of the criticism Paltrow and goop often receive. Some of the sessions showing couples experimenting with sex toys and accessories, including paddles, blindfolds and a metal "Wolverine claw," are sure to get attention.

Goop has been scrutinized for promoting unconventional products and experiences in the effort to educate consumers, and Paltrow has been an easy target as the recognizable face leading the brand. "I have incredible admiration for her because she is willing to put herself in places that I personally, I don't know if I had the fortitude to be criticized to that extent," Boehm said.

"When she decided to really go into being very conscious about the uncoupling and all of those things, everybody was rolling their eyes, everybody was ridiculing her. But now you look and people are actually more willing to accept that they could have co-parenting situations and blended families that are a lot more functional, and that is to a large extent because she put herself out there." □



Rosamund Pike arrives at the Governors Awards in Los Angeles on Nov. 18, 2018.

Associated Press

Rosamund Pike to narrate audiobook of 'The Eye of the World'

NEW YORK (AP) — Rosamund Pike, who stars in the Amazon Prime Video series based on Robert Jordan's "The Wheel of Time" books, also took on the epic task of narrating the audio edition of the late author's fantasy classic "The Eye of the World."

"The Eye of the World," published in 1990, is the first volume of Jordan's "The Wheel of Time" epic.

Macmillan Audio announced Thursday that the audiobook comes out Nov. 16, three days before the Amazon series airs. The audio is 30 hours long, and includes a vast catalog of pronunciations and characters. It has a list price of \$49.99.

"I'm excited to bring 'The Wheel of Time' series to life in a different way once again," Pike said in a state-

ment. "'The Wheel of Time' is an especially great series for audiobook listeners to immerse themselves in, and I reveled in voicing the robust collection of unique characters."

The Oscar-nominated actor stars as Moiraine Damodred in the "Wheel of Time" series, which also features Marcus Rutherford, Joshua Stradowski and Zoë Robins. □

NFL, players agree to end 'race-norming' in \$1B settlement

By MARYCLAIRE DALE

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The NFL and lawyers for thousands of retired NFL players have reached an agreement to end race-based adjustments in dementia testing in the \$1 billion settlement of concussion claims, according to a proposed deal filed Wednesday in federal court.

The revised testing plan follows public outrage over the use of "race-norming," a practice that came to light only after two former NFL players filed a civil rights lawsuit over it last year. The adjustments, critics say, may have prevented hundreds of Black players suffering from dementia to win awards that average \$500,000 or more.

The Black retirees will now have the chance to have their tests rescored or, in some cases, seek a new round of cognitive testing, according to the settlement, details of which were first reported in The New York Times on Wednesday. "We look forward to the court's prompt approval of the agreement, which provides for a race-neutral evaluation process that will ensure diagnostic accuracy and fairness in the concussion settlement," NFL lawyer Brad Karp said in a statement.

The proposal, which must still be approved by a judge, follows months of closed-door negotiations between the NFL, class counsel for the retired players, and lawyers for the Black players who filed suit, Najeh Davenport and Kevin Henry.

The vast majority of the league's players — 70% of active players and more than 60% of living retirees — are Black. So the changes are expected to be significant, and potentially costly for the NFL.

"No race norms or race demographic estimates — whether Black or white — shall be used in the settlement program going forward," the proposal said.

To date, the concussion fund has paid out \$821 million for five types of brain injuries, including early



In this May 14, 2021, file photo, former NFL players Ken Jenkins, right, and Clarence Vaughn III, center right, along with their wives, Amy Lewis, center, and Brooke Vaughn, left, carry petitions demanding equal treatment for everyone involved in the settlement of concussion claims against the NFL, to the federal courthouse in Philadelphia, in this Friday, May 14, 2021, file photo.

Associated Press

and advanced dementia, Parkinson's disease and Lou Gehrig's disease, also known as ALS.

Lawyers for the Black players suspect that white men were qualifying for awards at two or three times the rate of Blacks since the payouts began in 2017. It's unclear whether a racial breakdown of payouts will ever be done or made public.

Black NFL retiree Ken Jenkins and others have asked the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department to investigate.

The binary scoring system used in dementia testing — one for Black people, one for everyone else — was developed by neurologists in the 1990s as a crude way to factor in a patient's socioeconomic background. Experts say it was never meant to be used to determine payouts in a court settlement.

However, it was adopted by both sides in the court-approved, \$765 million settlement in 2013 that resolved lawsuits accusing

the NFL of hiding what it knew about the risk of repeated concussions. The fund was later uncapped amid concerns the money would run out.

This year, amid the national reckoning on race in America, both sides agreed to work to halt the use of race-norming, which assumes Black players start with lower cognitive function. That makes it harder to show they suffer from a mental deficit linked to their playing days.

The NFL would admit no wrongdoing under terms of the agreement. The league said it hoped the new testing formula, developed with input from a panel of experts, would be widely adopted in medicine.

To date, about 2,000 men

have applied for dementia awards, but only 30% have been approved. In some cases, the NFL appealed payouts awarded to Black men if doctors did not apply the racial adjustment. The new plan would forbid any challenges based on race.

The awards average \$715,000 for those with advanced dementia and \$523,000 for those with early dementia. The settlement is intended to run for 65 years, to cover anyone retired at the time it was first approved.

"The NFL should be really enraged about the race norming. That should be unacceptable to them and all of their sponsors," Roxanne "Roxy" Gordon of San Diego, the wife of an

impaired former player, said earlier this week.

Amon Gordon, a Stanford University graduate, finds himself at 40 unable to work. He has twice qualified for an advanced dementia award only to have the decision overturned for reasons that aren't yet clear to them. His case remains on review before the federal appeals court in Philadelphia.

Nearly 20,000 NFL retirees have registered for the settlement program, which offers monitoring, testing and, for some, compensation.

"If the new process eliminates race-norming and more people qualify, that's great," said Jenkins, who does not have an impairment but advocates for those who do.

"(But) we're not going to get everything we wanted," Jenkins, an insurance executive, said Tuesday.

"We want full transparency of all the demographic information from the NFL — who's applied, who's been paid."

Senior U.S. District Judge Anita B. Brody, who has overseen the settlement for a decade, dismissed the suit filed by Davenport and Henry this year on procedural grounds. But she later ordered the lawyers who negotiated the 2013 settlement — New York plaintiffs lawyer Christopher Seeger for the players and Karp for the NFL — to work with a mediator to address it.

In the meantime, the Gordons and other NFL families wait.

"His life is ruined," Roxy Gordon said of her husband, who spent nearly a decade in the league as a defensive tackle or defensive end. "He's a 40-year-old educated male who can't even use his skills. It's been horrible." □



LIKE US ON

facebook

Facebook.com/arubatoday/

Formula One foothold growing, series here to stay in USA

By **JIM VERTUNO**

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — When Formula One returned to the United States in 2012, in Texas of all places, the world's highest class of international auto racing was taking a big leap in a country it had abandoned five years earlier.

A decade later, F1 is here to stay in the USA.

The U.S. Grand Prix on Sunday will fulfill F1's original 10-year contract with the Circuit of the Americas, and the series has a new 10-year agreement for the Miami Grand Prix beginning next season. New American fans have been drawn to F1 by the Netflix docuseries "Drive to Survive."

It's taken a decade for F1 to establish its foothold, even without an American driver many have insisted the series needs to survive long term in the United States. The thrilling championship fight between Lewis Hamilton and Max Verstappen has been captivating and the sold-out crowd Sunday is anticipated to be the largest in race history.

"Huge, huge F1 fan," NASCAR reigning champion Chase Elliott told reporters Thursday while wearing a shirt supporting McLaren driver Daniel Ricciardo. "You know, it's, it's super fun to watch and they've got a lot of traction right now."

The addition of Miami to the schedule beginning next May is expected to boost F1's presence in North America to four stops: Montreal and Mexico City both return to the 2022 calendar, and Austin is among the 23 dates announced even as track President Bobby Epstein seeks a new multi-year contract.

"I'm pretty optimistic we'll reach a new deal going forward," Epstein said. "The track has become the global brand we wanted it to be. The architects who designed it have been proven right, the city as a destination has been validated. There were a lot of people who doubted and didn't see why it would work in Austin. We've proven it's succeeded."



Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg, of Germany, drives through the course during the first practice session for the Formula One U.S. Grand Prix auto race at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas, in this Friday, Oct. 31, 2014, file photo.

Associated Press

Epstein even believes there's enough interest for more stops in the U.S. Liberty Media, a U.S.-based investment firm, has run F1 since 2017 and president Stefano Domenicali acknowledged the country is a "key growth market." Hamilton said he is excited about the expansion.

"It's such a huge country," Hamilton said. "Having just one race here for sure isn't enough to really be able to tap into the sporting culture here and really encapsulate the fans and get them on the journey with us."

Few would have expected the series to take off as it has.

The Circuit of the Americas was just rolling scrub land outside the Texas capital when F1 said it was returning to the United States five years after its eight-year run ended at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. It seemed risky to build a \$300 million facility for the purpose of hosting F1 and its open-wheel teams in a country where the NASCAR stock car series is king.

Texas lawmakers sweetened the deal by allowing Epstein and race promoters to tap into state money to cover F1's rights fees — a tab that runs more than \$25 million per year. Organizers applied for \$35 million in state funds for this year's race.

Epstein turned race weekends into full festivals with star-studded concerts that have featured Taylor Swift, Justin Timberlake and Pink. Billy Joel is Saturday night's headliner in the track's massive infield.

NASCAR driver Denny Hamlin, a three-time Daytona 500 winner, complained about the sparse crowd at last week's play-off race in Fort Worth. He suggested NASCAR copy the U.S. Grand Prix's party approach to attract more fans.

"I would love to see us kind of have more of an F1-style approach to a race weekend and how we host hospitalities, parties, just all those things," Hamlin said. "There's just got to be more to it than showing up

and racing like we're doing now."

F1 drivers have praised the Austin track itself and seize every opportunity to enjoy the U.S. while promoting the race. Sergio Perez kicked off the festivities last weekend with a demonstration in his Red Bull in downtown Dallas that drew more than 10,000 spectators.

Charles Leclerc of Ferrari and Pierre Gasly of Alpha Tauri sat courtside for the NBA season-opener in Milwaukee, and Mick Schumacher, son of F1 legend Michael Schumacher and driver for the American-owned Haas team, was on the pit stand for Stewart-Haas Racing at Sunday's NASCAR race.

"I can see the passion for the sport is growing here, which is great," Perez said. "Even five years ago, it wasn't as popular as you see now. I think Formula One is only going to get bigger stateside."

What the American market is still missing is a victory — or even a podium — from an American driver or team.

There hasn't been an American driver in F1 since Alexander Rossi's limited run with Sauber ended in 2015. He moved to IndyCar, won the Indianapolis 500 as a rookie, and hasn't returned to F1.

American businessman Gene Haas expanded into F1 in 2016 as the means to grow his machine tool building company internationally. He's so far declined to develop an American driver and currently fields cars for Schumacher, a German, and Russian driver Nikita Mazepin.

Haas has chosen drivers with experience and financial backing, though the result is five winless seasons without a single podium. Even worse, Haas has collapsed from a middle-of-the-pack team in 2018 to last place this season.

Michael Andretti, son of former F1 champion Mario Andretti, has openly said he'd like to expand the Andretti brand into F1 and is reportedly in discussions to take control of Sauber. The American even made inquiries about getting Colton Herta in an F1 car for Friday's first practice session.

The 21-year-old Andretti star is currently in IndyCar and would be expected to move to F1 if Andretti gets a team. Herta tried the F1 development route and moved to London alone at 15, but was back in the U.S. two years later when opportunities didn't materialize. He landed in IndyCar and became the series' youngest winner at 19 — at the Circuit of the Americas — in 2019.

The pursuit of one of the 20 seats on the F1 grid is expensive and requires a massive commitment from drivers at very young ages. Perez was a teenager when he left Mexico for Europe to train for F1.

"(An American driver) would be nice to have, but from my perspective it is very hard to make it in Formula One," Perez said. "We are the ones who have to go out of our homes and we have to do that at a very young age." □